AN

ANSWER

TO THE

OBJECTIONS

Againſt the

Earl of Danby,

Concerning his being Acceſſary to the Murdering of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey.

WHen man by Fate, or his ill conduct, tumbles from the Precipices of Honour, his Mole-hill Crimes ſtreight turn to Mountains, and his former Splendours trampled in the duſt, each man his fond Objection lays, and at his tottering Baſis levels round about; Fate ſeldom ſtrikes, but Ignominy waits him at the heels, and creeps into the gaping Wounds he makes; ſiniſter Reports, like wandring Atoms, glide in the vaſt track of ſouls that Innovation ſeek, and makes them think their fond Opinion beſt; which may be emblem'd by the turning Spheres, whenas the glorious Lamp of day deſcends beneath this Earthly Ball, the leſſer Fires diſperſe their ſeeds of light, and each takes place in a ſuperiour Orb; even thoſe that in proſperity could flatter moſt, and cringe beneath the Footſtool of a Power to ſerve their Ends, and to promote their Intereſt nothing was too much, no Obligation e're was thought too great, nor nothing done in vain that could acceptance find; Proteſtations and diſſembled Vows, Service, and Friendſhip, with a thouſand antique motions did attend. Yet theſe are but like Swallows, who whilſt warm'd with kindly rays, do chant unto each morning wake, but when the ſtorms of State grow high, and bluſtring *Autumn*'s lofty winds the mighty Cedars ſhake, each pluck

 a twig,

a twig, and flie from thence unto a warmer Sun, or with its weight assists the Tempest, till it crush the mighty bole, nay and aggravating Crimes to that extent, though only upon weak suspicion, that they seem more dreadful to the vulgar eye, even in their bare relation, than (if true) when acted at the first; and wounds from treacherous Friends we always know are far more grievous than from open Foes, for where a man confides, and rests the Axis of his Soul, from thence he ever expects no ill; or if he did, he would not (if himself) rush void of fear upon premeditated ruine; yet oft 'tis seen in Politicks of State, when Greatness is detracted and made vile (the which much like an Adamantine Rock environed with Metals, heretofore could draw admiring Eyes, and make it self a pleasing prospect) then loses all its virtue, and regardless stands, whilst its Adherents all withdraw, and restless in their motions, still run bias's to the Mighty with this Character (when asked concerning their degraded Friend) *'Tis true, I once was conversant with such a one, but now 'tis past, and I now stand on surer ground, 'till the next Tempest comes, against which my care is to provide.*

Even so now fares it with a late considerable Member of our *English* Nation, the Earl of *Danby*, whose too aspiring thoughts, 'tis probably conjectured, have expos'd him to these furious Gusts of State, which bend his Honour, and have laid him open to the slaunder of his private Foes; for when Ambition gets the Rains, and wilful Passion does o'reflow the bounds of Reason, it makes Prosperity a Curse, and is the only way to heap up Foes against that time when Purple Greatness shall withdraw, and adverse Fortune break the Barricades, and let them in, like raging Torrents on every side, and then you may be sure they will wreck their Spleens.

For amongst the rest of the Crimes already laid against him) one more is here objected, and imposed on him, as he being accessary to the same; the which alone might blast bright fame, and render his memory detesta-

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bly odious for future ages to abhor; the which is that execrable Murther of the worthy Gentleman Sir *Edmundbury-Godfrey*, a large Narration of which has been published to the World; The which upon a serious view is thought to have been suggested by some of his heretofore publick Friends, but now private Foes, the weight of the whole matter depending upon Circumstances only; first, that because he having Correspondence with the said Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* concerning divers Affairs, the which tended and related to the discovery of the late Plot, that he upon that account should contrive his Murder, is but a very weak inference, seeing that he could not well be greater than he was, and that if the *Romish* Faction had prevailed, his Honour (as it has been averred by the Deponents that hath hitherto made any discovery of the said Plot) was confiscated and disposed of to others; whereupon it more imported him, if it had lain in his power, to have made a free discovery himself, or at least, if Sir *Edmund*, who having taken the Depositions of Dr. *Oates* and Dr. *Tonge*, as is objected, communicated any thing to him, he should have closed with his Propositions, and have joyned with him in such a blessed discovery, had it been barely upon the account of securing himself in what he was; for he or any reasonable man must expect, if a Nation is subverted by Treason or the power of the Sword, the Conquerors will not admit any of the former Grandees to continue and execute their places of Authority, lest they, watching their opportunities, should soar above them.

And farther, the Objection being made, that by reason Sir *Edmund* coming off to the said Earl of *Danby*'s house, it was more in his power than in any other to murder him; it follows not, that men which have opportunities are indued with such Diabolick minds as to take away cruelly the lives of their Friends; but rather, if such violence should be offered by any other, to resist the Assassinates, and defend the Assaulted to his power, for Murder is so execrable a Crime, that surely no Christian can think upon it without horror and amazement; and it is

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far beneath a generous and heroick Soul to dye his hands in innocent Blood, especially when unprovoked. Farther it is objected, That the same Morning that Sir *Edmund* was supposed to have been murdered, he was at the said Earl's house, and that the Earl of *Danby*'s Gentleman that day went over the Water with Sir *Edmund*; the which the Accusers of the Murder confute, declaring that he being watched out of his house by those that assassinated him, and so directly to *London*-ward, about which places they traced, and with narrow observations followed his steps, staying for him at several places, till at last it growing dark, upon his *return* homeward, he went into a house near St. *Clements-Church*, and that whilest he stayed there they sent one of their Accomplices to give notice at *Somerset-house*, the other still watching him; who, after he came out of that house, went directly towards his own home in St. *Martins in the fields*, whereupon the Assassinates, when he came against the *Watergate of Somerset house*, got him in by a *stratagem*, and then strangled him; the which, had it been for the Earl of *Danby*'s interest to effect, he could probably with more conveniency procured it, and not have trusted so dangerous a Secret in the Breasts of so many ill affected men, whom he might conjecture, if they had ventured it for *gain or hire*, might upon the like Sum, and promise of a Pardon, declare who imployed them in such a *pernicious design*; but it plainly appeared, their *Priest* being *concerned* in the same, and by their *obstinate denying to the last*, that they were *prompted* on by *blind Zeal* to commit that horrid and execrable Crime for the *propagating* of the *Romish Cause*; and that it cannot *reasonably* be thought any otherways *performed*, what suspitions or probabilities soever may be offered; for no man ought, out of private revenge, to make that case worse than it is, the which at best may prove bad; but all men learn to pity those whom frowning Fortune *trampleth* down, lest one day fate may wheel about, and they themselves vainly may the like implore.

FINIS